(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (d). Representations are received from time to time, from various quarters, including the State Governments, for expansion of Metro Channel (DD-2) service of Doordarshan to more areas of the country. While the service is available throughout the country, including the entire State of Gujarat, via satellite by using an appropriate dish antenna system, terrestrially this service is being extended initially to State Capitals and major cities of the country, in a phased manner, depending on availability of resources and inter-se priorities. At present, a High Power TV transmitter (HPT) at Ahmedabad and a Low Power TV transmitter (LPT) at Gandhinagar are relaying Metro Channel (DD-2) service in the State of Gujarat. There is no approved shceme, at present, to set up any additional DD-2 transmitter in the State during the VIII Plan.

[English]

Mobilisation of Funds from Capital Market

2040. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have tried to mobilise funds from the capital market for the promotion of tourism during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof

(c) whether the target fixed for this purpose is likely to be achieved;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the purposes for which the funds are being mobilised from the capital market?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b). The Tourism Finance Corporation of India (TFCI), a specialised public financial institution has raised a sum of Rs.153.65 crores so far, during the current financial year.

(c) to (d). The TFCI envisages raising an additional Rs.100 crores by March, 1997 by way of private placement of unsecured bonds. These funds are being raised to meet the requirements of financial assistance for the tourism industry.

[Translation]

Introduction of Train from Bodh Gaya

2041. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to start any train between Gaya, Bodh Gaya and Delhi or Sounth India:

(b) if so, the details thereof

(c) whether the Union Government propose to start Varanasi-Tirupati Express and Varanasi-Cochin Express from Gaya; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

A.C. Chair Car Facility in Trains

2042. SHRI GOPAL KRISHNA T. : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of trains having A.C. Chair Car facility till date;

(b) the number of superfast trains have been provided with 3-tier A.C. sleeper accommodation in place of chair car accommodation;

(c) whether the Government propose to re-introduce A.C. chair car accommodation as many passengers cannot afford to travel by 3-tier A.C. sleeper in view of steep increase in fares; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Introduction of New Superfast Train

2043. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the inconvenience and difficulties being faced by the large number of passengers travelling on Firozpur-Faridkot-Kotaka Pura-Bhatinda-Delhi route due to the non-availability of any fast express train on this route;

(b) if so, whether keeping in view the rush of passengers on this route and difficulties being faced by